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Conyers Identifies 26 Laws and Regulations Bush Administration May Have Violated

Releases "Constitution in Crisis" Report

Congressman John Conyers (D-MI), Ranking Member of the House Judiciary Committee, today released his long-awaited "Constitution in Crisis" report. The 350-page Conyers report -- supported by more than 1,400 footnotes -- compiles the accumulated evidence of Bush Administration misconduct associated with the run-up to the Iraq war, torture and other abuses, the outing of Valerie Plame and retaliation against Administration critics, and unlawful domestic surveillance.

Conyers stated:

"The situation we find ourselves in today under the administration of George W. Bush is systemically worse than previous scandals such as Watergate and Iran-Contra. The alleged acts of wrongdoing my staff has documented -- which include making misleading statements about the decision to go to war; manipulating intelligence; facilitating and countenancing torture; using classified information to out a CIA agent; and violating federal surveillance and privacy laws -- are quite serious.

"It is tragic that our Nation has invaded another sovereign nation because 'the intelligence and facts were being fixed around the policy' (in the infamous words of the Downing Street Minutes) and that millions of innocent Americans have been subject to government surveillance outside of proper legal process.

Moreover, it is unforgivable that Congress has been unwilling to examine these matters or take actions to prevent these circumstances from occurring again. Since the Majority Party is unwilling to fulfill their oversight responsibilities, it is incumbent on individual Members of Congress as well as the American public to act to protect our constitutional form of government. It is with that purpose and in that spirit that I am releasing this report."

The full report may be found <u>here</u>.